

REMARKS

Claims 5, 14, 23, 32 and 41 have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 19, 24, 25, 28, 33, 34, 42 and 43 have been cancelled.

Election/Restriction

The Applicants have noted the Examiner's comments in the Office Action regarding the election/restriction requirement and also respectfully submit that no amendment to inventorship is required because of the amendment to the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Tuulos. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants have amended claim 5 to include all of the features of claims 6-7 and 10. The Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has now rendered the rejection moot.

The Applicants submit that Tuulos fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of adding a member list to an active group call and announcing the group call to each member in the member list, wherein the announcing includes transmitting a message on a forward common channel of a wireless network.

Claim 2 of Tuulos recites "in response to the addition message (401), the identifiers (c) of one or more other subscriber stations included in the addition message (301) are compared with the identifiers of the subscriber stations participating in the call, these identifiers being maintained in the database (413), and if the identifiers are the same, those subscriber stations

(102; 201; 403) the identifiers of which are included in the addition message (301) are removed from the call.”

Furthermore, Tuulos (page 11, lines 24 to 30) states that in the removal and addition of messages, the “essential piece of information is the subscriber or group number C which the operation of the message relates to. Other messages, i.e. call message 302, release message 402 and acknowledgement message 404 are system-specific existing messages to call and release a subscriber or group and to express acknowledgments.”

Tuulos refers to a way of adding and releasing individual subscribers and does not teach or suggest the manipulation of entire member lists (e.g. adding the member list to an active group call), nor does Tuulos teach or suggest the announcing of a group call to each member in the member list as recited in the Applicants’ claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Tuulos fails to teach or suggest at least these features and combinations thereof as variously recited in amended claim 5. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 5 be allowed.

Claims 8-9 and 11-13 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 5 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 5 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Independent claims 14, 23, 32 and 41 recite features that are related to those of claim 5. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 23, 32 and 41 should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 5 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 17-18 and claims 20-22 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 14 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 14 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 26-27 and claims 29-31 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 23 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 23 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 35-40 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 32 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 32 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 44 is a dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 41 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 41 as well as the additionally recited features.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 5, 14, 23, 32 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Jonsson et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants have amended claim 5 to incorporate the features of claims 6, 7 and 10. The Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has now rendered the rejection moot.

The Applicants submit that Jonsson et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of announcing the group call to each member in the member list and wherein the announcing includes transmitting a message on a forward common channel of a wireless network.

Jonsson et al. discloses dynamically controlled group call services in mobile telecommunications networks. Claim 1 of Jonsson et al. recites a mobile terminal informing a service node that the creation of a call group having selected characteristics is desired. In

response to this informing step, the service node automatically assigns an identifier to the desired call group and provides to members of the desired call group information indicative of the identifier.

Page 7, lines 8-15 of Jonsson et al. describes how a user can connect to a selected group call. A first connection is established with the service node whereby a dialogue is initiated with the user. The user may be prompted for a password to be allowed access to the group call. In response to a successful verification of the password, the service node provides the user with the group ID which is used for retrieving the network broadcast of the group call.

Furthermore, on page 27, lines 11-14 of Jonsson et al., the calling mobile station detects the group ID and tunes to the group call channel. Then, all other members of the group, provided they are located in the cells identified by the calling mobile station can detect the group ID and tune to the group channels in their respective cells.

The Applicants would also like to emphasize that Jonsson et al. fails to disclose adding a member list to an active group call and where the group call is announced to each member in the member list.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Jonsson et al. fails to teach or suggest at least these features and combinations thereof as variously recited in claim 5. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 5 be allowed.

The Applicants have amended claim 14 to incorporate the features of claims 15, 16 and 19. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 24, 25 and 28. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 33 and 34. Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 42 and 43. The Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments have now rendered the rejection moot.

Independent claims 14, 23, 32 and 41 relate features that are similar to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 23, 32 and 41 should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 5 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tuulos or Jonsson, et al. in view of Raith. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants have incorporated the features of claims 42 and 43 into amended claim 41 and cancelled claims 42-43. The Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has now rendered the rejection moot.

The Examiner acknowledges that Tuulos and Jonsson et al. fail to teach or suggest at least the feature of a dispatcher that determines location information for each member of the list, or a local controller for a member located within a local region, or a remote controller for a member that is located outside a local region. The Applicants respectfully submit that Raith does not cure the deficiencies of the Tuulos and Jonsson et al. patents.

On page 3, lines 10-19, Raith discloses techniques where information regarding active user group connections are transmitted on a broadcast channel. The mobile station can update its information regarding active user groups by listening to the broadcast channel. The mobile station can then provide an indication to its user regarding active user groups of interest and the user can determine whether or not to join the active user group connection.

Raith (page 14, lines 15 to 19) states that the “UGCM 190 can also acquire mobile station position information to provide a map display by which a group operator can more readily

coordinate group call activity. Radiocommunication systems are now beginning to require that operators be able to locate mobile stations, e.g., to service emergency (911) calls.”

Raith also discloses that the “system can regularly update UGCM 190 regarding the position of logged-in mobile stations associated with its relevant user group(s)” (page 15, lines 3-6) and “the mobile station could send its location directly to UGCM 190 if it obtains its own location information, e.g. via GPS” (page 15, lines 7-8).

Raith further discloses “the system could receive the position information from each mobile 120 and forward that information to the UGCM 190 when polled.” (page 15, lines 10-12).

The aforementioned portions of Raith referenced above generally refer to location information and fail to specifically disclose the controller includes a local controller for a member that is located within a local region and the controller includes a remote controller for a member that is located outside a local region.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Tuulos, Jonsson et al. and Raith singly or in combination fail to teach or suggest at least these features and combinations thereof as variously recited in claim 41. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 41 be allowed.

Claim 44 is a dependent claim that depends upon independent claim 41 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 41 as well as the additionally recited features.

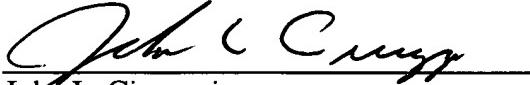
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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